

### In the Abstract

Applicants note that an Abstract of the Invention is not on file, and accordingly submit herewith a new Abstract commencing on a separate page.

### In the Claims

(Clean copy as amended.)

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1. (Amended) A furniture piece, which comprises:  
a plurality of rib units, each of which has (i) at least one functional surface such that a composite of each of the at least one functional surface of the plurality of rib units defines a functional surface of said furniture piece, and (ii) at least one supporting member configured according to a pattern which varies from one rib unit to another such that a composite of the supporting members provides support for said furniture piece and its occupants;  
interconnecting means for securing each of the rib units to the others; and spacer means for situating each of the rib units in a position which, when secured by the interconnecting means, is separated from each of the adjoining rib units.

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6. (Amended) The invention recited in claim 1, in which the interconnecting means comprises one or more rods passing through each rib unit and said spacer means.

Please add the following new claims:

10. (New) The furniture piece according to claim 2 wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected to define a bench.

11. (New) The furniture piece according to claim 2 wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected to define a chair.

12. (New) The furniture piece according to claim 1 wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected to define a table.

13. (New) A furniture piece comprising:

a plurality of interconnected rib units, each further comprising:

a first functional member defining a first functional surface for performing a first composite function for said furniture piece;

a supporting member;

wherein each supporting member of each rib unit is angularly displaced from said first functional member, independently of the remaining support members of said plurality of rib units; and

wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected such that the independently angled support members define a pattern such that the composite of the supporting members provides support for said furniture piece and its potential occupants.

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14. (New) The furniture piece according to claim 13 wherein each rib unit further comprises a second functional member defining a second functional surface for performing a second composite function for said furniture piece.

15. (New) The furniture piece according to claim 13 wherein said plurality of rib units are interconnected at spaced intervals via one or more rods passing through each of said plurality of rib units.

16. (New) A furniture piece comprising:

a plurality of interconnected rib units, each comprising:

a functional surface such that a composite of the functional surface of each of said plurality of rib units defines a functional surface of said furniture piece; and

a supporting member; and

wherein each said supporting member is configured according to a pattern, with respect to adjacent supporting members, to define a composite supporting member which provides support for said furniture piece and its potential occupants.

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